

Public Hearing: July 30, 2001

## **FACT SHEET**

**TITLE:** Resolution to enter into a multi-year contract with Mountain States Pipe & Supply for Automated Meter Reading Equipment and Services.

**SPONSOR:** Public Works & Utilities

**OPPONENTS:** Unknown

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** For

**OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED:**

**APPLICANT:** Public Works & Utilities

**REASON FOR LEGISLATION:** The implementation of an automated meter reading system requires that the radio devices mounted on the meters and the reading system must be compatible. This four year contract will provide the necessary equipment and professional services for the second four years of the eight to ten year implementation schedule. Also, replaces aging meter system installed 15 to 20 years ago, many of which are causing customer billing errors.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Badger water meters and the Itron radio units from Mountain States Pipe & Supply were selected as the best solution for Lincoln Water System from the three proposals received. Anticipate installation of these devices in the fall of 97 at new service locations and defective meter or remote reader sites. Spring of 98, anticipate a door-to-door campaign to change all meters in one of our ten meter reading routes each year. Public educational program regarding need for access into properties will be necessary.

**OPERATIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:** The radio units will be directly attached to the meter saving the time and expense of wiring a remote device. New handheld computers for the Meter Readers will eventually migrate to a van mounted, drive-by unit. Installing this system will alleviate the need to add more meter reading staff as the number of water and wastewater accounts continue to grow, and eventually will allow a reduction in the number of employees reading meters in the field. Will need expanded (non-traditional) hours for installation and customer service contacts. Anticipate \$1 million plus appropriation per year.

**POLICY OR PROGRAM CHANGE:** No, this is implementation of an expanded program.

**COST OF TOTAL PROJECT:**

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:**

**CITY:**

**NON-CITY:**

**BENEFIT COST:**

**FACT SHEET PREPARED BY:**

Purchasing Agent

**REVIEWED BY:**

Director of Public Works & Utilities